

My perception of the point of preserving "net neutrality" is that prioritized net traffic becomes a way to sell better service to those with money, & to dump those with less money onto the older, slower, and then increasingly less valued resources. You already hear about the "digital divide", where access to computers and the skills needed to become expert are based on economic class- poor schools, with 10 or even 20 years ago's technology.

In practice of course, this unequal access to modern life becomes a racist and sexist class structure as well. After all, everything in this corporation-dominated country- nope, corporation-dominated world- ends up being about power and money. Those who are limited & practiced against in every other way, are of course limited & practiced against in financial ways also!

Imagine poorer people only getting to use dial-up, with all current news and topical information only available on high-speed digital media. At least today, most people can afford to access cable or other high-speed providers, and it's legal to use long-distance phone services like Skype. Personally, I've just moved from dial-up to DSL, after 15 years only able to afford dial-up. It's a useful analogy: it's a very different world when you can view all the news & YouTube all you want, instead of having to wait for half an hour to download single clips, one at a time. You can see an awful lot more and absolutely become much more informed! Think I want this availability carved up by a host of ISPs, etc., into several money-stratified markets again? Nope. I continue to be pretty broke, & I am far from alone. Most people in this country are middle class or poorer. Prices are generally upper-class.

So, I can't support the "Americans for Prosperity" message below. I strongly feel it misrepresents the good of the people, with a pretense that the government is being oppressive and limiting rights of access, in order to disguise that corporate interests are attempting to divide up access, and ultimately be far more expensive. Tell me one benefit that people in general will get from removing equal access!

"We're selling superior internet service, Mrs. Jones, and we'll do just about anything to get your business!

You got a cut in pay? After being our best customer for 3 years, you're asking for a break until you get on your feet? Sorry- you and Junior are just going to have to use the computer at the library, then. We're not in business for your benefit, you know."

Making a pretense that preserving free access to the internet is automatically controlling the information carried upon it is as disingenuous and slick as pretending that limiting the unholy profits of health insurance companies is the same as limiting the actual health care those companies are supposed to pay for. That's just a bait and switch. Wasn't it just AT&T & Verizon that were trying to censor political ads, actually preventing political emails from getting through, but were hauled into court to allow advertisers to actually carry their original messages?

Who's more likely to try to control the airwaves, a government that is constantly at the mercy of the electorate, or a private company that hires, fires and operates as it wants to, with no one able to change its ways except for that government?!

The government is in business for our benefit, no matter how cynical or hopeless the electorate has become: with our voices, votes, actions, we ARE the government, and we can effect healthy changes. It ain't easy; it's a royal pain in the ass, as a matter of fact, & kind of scary. I'm not exactly comfortable while writing my opinion to you nice folks, as another matter of fact. but eleven score and 4 years ago, our forefathers (and mothers) raised their angry voices against being sold a bill of goods, "for their benefit". I don't believe they enjoyed the process very much, as it took all they had. That's our job now, and that means not being sold a worthless bill of goods by the multi-national corporations that honestly see us as just more wallets to empty. At least our government knows we're voters; we're only saps with wallets to the multinational corporations!

I honestly believe that it is our government's job to preserve internet access, especially when other interests only want to sell access. Just like so-called Free Trade actions in NAFTA eventually left zillions of Mexicans and American out on the cold, under the pretense that these measures would create new jobs when they actually only created new limitations and prevented Mexico from utilizing it's own resources because we flooded their markets with below-cost products, this pretense at keeping the government's hands off the internet is purely a fabrication.

Come on- The government is already the major player: the United States Government funded & invented the Internet, fa heaven's sake, and still has absolute regulatory power. I say, so far, so good; we're not moving into a new era of government control, but hoping to stay out of a new era of soulless corporate control.

Such deregulation has worked so wonderfully well in all other utility operations, hasn't it? With all the dizzying choices we have, pretending that any of them are actually choices we'd make, now we not only don't know what we're buying, but can't really even figure out what we're paying for it.

Respectfully, Kate Marin

Message forwarded from Americans For Prosperity:

Regardless of how one may feel about the internet, it is a powerful tool for getting information. Some info we may agree with; some not. But Washington would have us believe that it is necessary to control all information on the internet --for our own good, of course.

This is a clear violation of our free speech. When we try to censor others we censor ourselves!

So if you value the internet for what it is, then don't hesitate to sign the petition. No donations are being solicited.

